

the Webbs' work One very interesting point, which is also suggestive in its bearing on the judgment a reader may attempt to pass on the logical validity of their analysis, is that they express the view that the Trade Union in some form or other is a necessary and permanent element in any society, however highly evolved, and however far its evolution has carried it away from the Capitalist form we now know On this view, at the time, they were criticised from two main, though contradictory angles Orthodox economic and political opinion—and the two were never very clearly distinguished—disliked, and feared, the Trade Union as a "class" organisation Socialist opinion, at any rate on the continent of Europe, was perturbed, because the view that the organisation of producers known as the Trade Union was destined to continue indefinitely, ran counter to "catastrophic" Marxian philosophy Their conclusion as to the probable permanence of the Trade Union seriously upset the leaders of the German Social Democratic Party Indeed when Eduard Bernstein's translation of *Industrial Democracy* appeared in Germany at the end of 1897, as it happened, accidentally, a few weeks before the publication of the English book, in December, the translator, although already a tried and trusted veteran in the German Social Democratic Party, was severely blamed for introducing such heretical ideas into the Socialist flock, indeed, he narrowly escaped

dismissal from his party offices That was in
1897 The
critics took the orthodox Marxian view a view
the Webbs
rejected It remained the orthodox Marxian
view and
in Russia when orthodox Marxianism
triumphed in 1918
Trade Unions were officially abolished By
1930, they
had been reinstated, with honours, as one of
the main,
and indispensable, pillars of the Soviet State
The first quality, to-day, that will strike any
reader of
either of these two volumes is their vitality.
Later, the